

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M: 35/93

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Moxley-Prosise House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3706 Thornapple Street

___ not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase

___ vicinity of

state Maryland

county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category

___ district)
☒ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership

___ public
☒ private
___ both

Present Use

___ agriculture
___ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
___ government
___ industrial
___ military
___ museum
___ park
☒ private residence
___ religious
___ scientific
___ transportation
___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Judson E. & H. J. Lobdell

street & number 3706 Thornapple Street

telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase

state and zip code Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Court- Tax Map and Parcel HN342; Lot 13, Bl. 1

city, town Rockville state Maryland

house

Liber and Folio 14727/0030

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ___ Individually Listed in the National Register
___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ HSR or Research report at MHT
___ Other:

7. Description

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Condition

☒ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count:

See attached.

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M:35/93 Moxley-Prosise House (1899)
3706 Thornapple Street
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The Moxley-Prosise House is one of three similar symmetrical Colonial Revival style houses built by Rosalier Moxley on Thornapple Street at the end of the nineteenth century. It is less elaborate than the earliest of Moxley's houses (3712 Thornapple) in its unadorned cornice and single plane walls with uniform shingle siding.¹ The roof is pressed metal. The original full-width porch has been replaced with brick steps and metal railing. The front door and frame with broken pediment do not appear to be original.

The house remains on its original site, Lot 13, Block 1, consisting of 6,250 square feet.²

¹See MHT form M:35/92, M-NCPPC.

²Deed TD 6:214.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 35/93

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology- prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-19

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type: Individual

Category: Residential

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source:

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M:35/93 Moxley-Prosise House (1899)
3706 Thornapple Street
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Rosalier Moxley purchased Lot 13 in November 1898 from Raymond J. Geare, one of the four original developers of Otterbourne. The house was built in the following months as the property was assessed in 1899 with improvements valued at \$1,500.³ By this time Moxley appears to have moved from 3712 Thornapple to 3706 with her \$200 worth of furnishings, according to assessment record entries.

In July 1901, Moxley sold the property to Catherine R. Prosise, who owned it for eight years. In 1909, Mayday and William Lee Britton acquired the house and lived here for at least 20 years. William Britton, a druggist and notary, was the son of Alexander T. Britton, a prominent Washington DC attorney and step-brother of Alexander Britton, a Chevy Chase Club governor, who later resided at 3815 Bradley Lane.⁴

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves, each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.⁵

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly

³Deed TD 6:214; Tax Assessment Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

⁴Deeds TD 17:309, 7/9/1901; 206:283, 1909. U.S. Census, 1910. Directories of 1912, 1915, 1927. Section 5 Road Levy of 1929. Proctor, 181-3. MHT form, 3815 Bradley Lane.

⁵Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

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established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.⁶

⁶Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1 [Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, History of Bethesda, pp. 173-4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35/93

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,250 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

organization Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner

date

street & number Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

1/98

8787 Georgia Avenue

telephone

301-563-3400

city or town

Silver Spring

state

Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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3706 Thornapple Street
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

Directories:

- Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1913.
- Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.
- Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.
- Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

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Maps:

- Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915
- Deets and Maddox. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1917.
- Fava Naeff. *Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad*, 1890.
- Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.
- Klingé. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.
- Martenet and Bond. *Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, 1865.
- Maryland Geological Survey Map. Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1916, 1927, 1927-1959.

Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History*. Including Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

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Secondary Sources:

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1986.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland*. Rockville, Md: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Offutt, William. *Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War II*. Bethesda, Md: The Innovation Game, 1995.

Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

Wyatt, Barbara (Editor) "Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture." Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee. National Register Bulletin 31, Draft. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987.

CONTINUATION SHEET

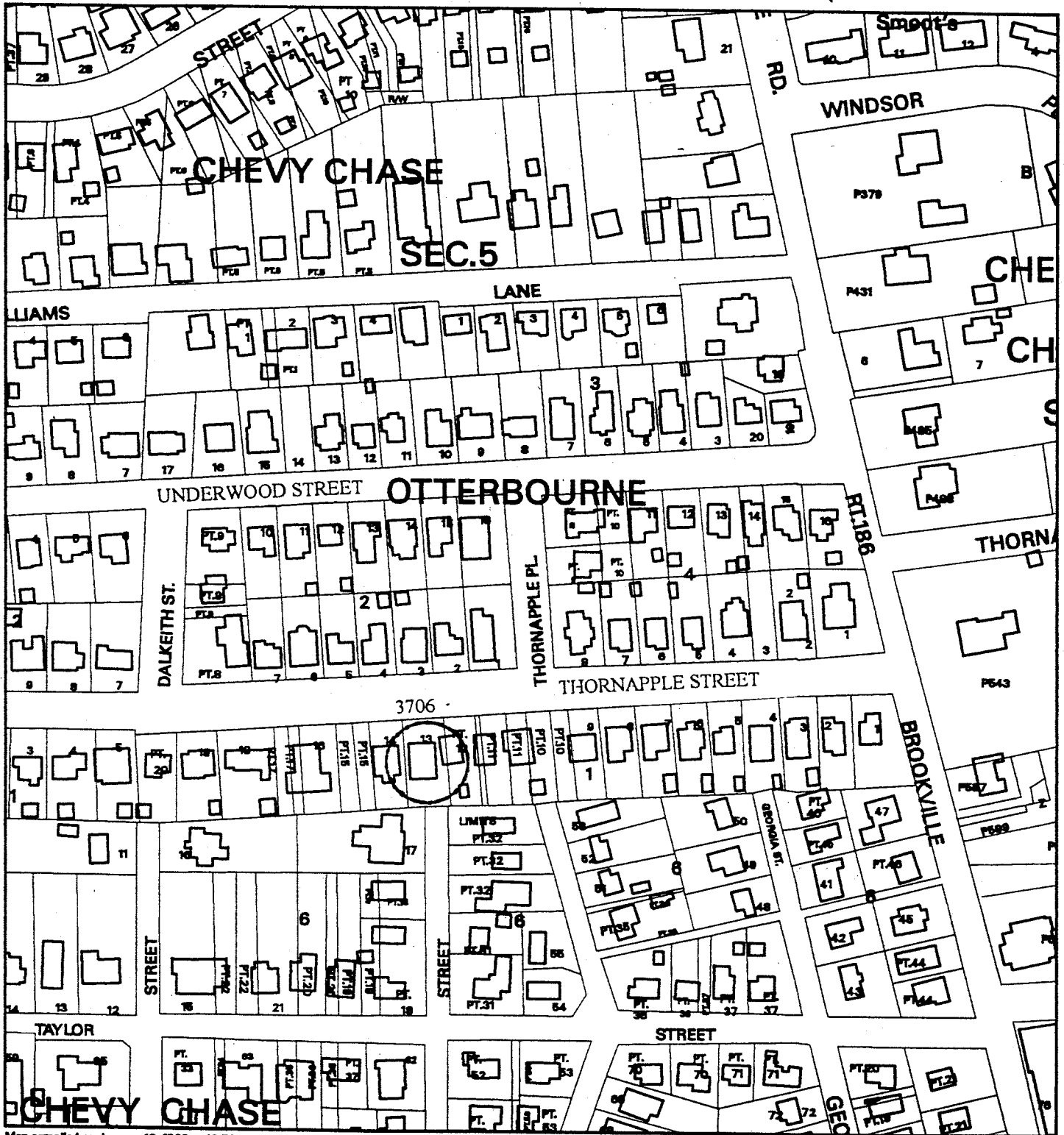
M:35/93 Moxley-Prosise House (1899)
3706 Thornapple Street



VICINITY MAP FOR

OTTERBOURNE

M: 35/93



NOTICE

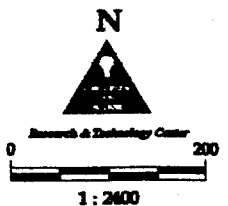
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
 THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
 6707 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3700

Key Map



1:2400